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The second Paper read consisted of—

Two despatches from Dr. Baikie to Earl Russell, dated 25th July, 1862, regretting that ill health, from which, however, he had recovered, prevented his sending detailed accounts of several most interesting and, he believed, valuable journeys he had made in the kingdom of Kano, from the capital of which he wrote. He had prepared eight new vocabularies, and had visited about 30 different tribes. He had satisfactorily established the existence of the watershed between the Tchadda and the Quorra, and had carefully examined the little-known south-east portion of Kano due south of Lake Tchad. Some unimportant traces of Dr. Vogel and Serjeant Maguire had been discovered; and a private letter, also forwarded to the President, dated 4th August, stated his intention of returning to the coast. After giving a graphic account of life at Kano, "where," he writes, "I every day enjoy nothing less than bread-and-butter for breakfast, wheat rolls being daily hawked about or sold in the market, while fresh butter is a daily article: it is the nearest approach to home that I have had for a long time,"—Dr. Baikie spoke of the kingdom of Kano, to reach which had been his object for more than two years, as "the finest and best cultivated [country] I have seen." The rainy season of 1862 had been very light.

The PRESIDENT said Dr. Baikie was well worthy of their warmest encomiums. He had been a long time in the country, and they would now be anxious to hear that he had reached the ultimate point of his destination, and had there obtained the papers of Corporal M'Guire and some other papers of great importance to geographers.

3. *Letters from the late Dr. Vogel to his Mother and others.*

(A.) *Dated Aschenumma, Tiboo, 26th Nov. 1853.*

This letter describes the writer's painful journey of 15 days through sand from Mourzouk to the point where he then was, within 20 days' journey of Lake Tchad; after leaving which he hoped to reach Kuka by New Year's Day. The whole country he depicts as a sea of sand, with islets of palms, and bare black rocks protruding through the sand. On the 25th of November he had visited the Sultan of Tiboo, whose palace was a mud hovel, thatched with palm-leaves. Two goats and a horse assisted at the reception. The village is situate at the foot of a large steep rock, resembling the Königstein as seen from the Bastei near Dresden, which is undermined in every direction, and forms the refuge of the natives in case of attack.